

## **REMARKS**

The Office Action dated March 5, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the application. However, claims 12-14 and 16 were previously withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement. Therefore, claims 1-11 and 15 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during a telephone interview conducted July 2, 2008. The arguments discussed below are meant to further elucidate the positions presented during the interview.

The Office Action rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out the subject matter of the invention. More specifically, the Office Action stated that claim 10 is vague and indefinite because the meaning of press fit is allegedly unclear. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 10 when considered in view of the specification is clear and definite, as the specification provides an unambiguous explanation of "press fit." In particular, as discussed in the specification and illustrated in Figs. 3-5, "the inner holder 60 has a function of mechanically holding the inner circumferential edge of the stamper 29. In order to prevent the stamper 29 from separating from the mirror-surface disc 16 and dropping off when the disc substrate is released from the stamper 29 in the course of

mold opening, the inner holder 60 is attached to the mold assembly 12 as follows: in the course of attachment of the inner holder 60 to the mold assembly 12, the inner holder 60 is press-fitted into the hole of the stamper 29, thereby pressing the stamper 29 against the mirror-surface disc 16 and thus holding the stamper 29 in place” (Specification, page 15, lines 8-18). Accordingly, at least this section of the specification provides a clear explanation for the inner holder 60 being press-fitted into the hole of the stamper 29. Therefore, the subject matter of claim 10 including the meaning of “press fit” is clear. Applicants therefore respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki (JP 2001-322148). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-9 and 11 are dependent, recites a mold for molding. The mold includes a mirror-surface disc, and a stamper having a hole formed at its center and attached to a front end surface of said mirror-surface disc. The mold further includes an inner holder for holding said stamper by means of press fit into said hole, wherein during said press fit, at least either said stamper or said inner holder is subjected to stress in excess of its yield point and plastically deformed.

Claim 10, upon which claim 15 is dependent, recites a mold for molding. The mold includes a first mold assembly, a second mold assembly disposed in such a manner as to be able to advance toward and retreat from said first mold assembly, an insert disposed in at least either said first or second mold assembly, and an inner holder for

disposing said insert. During press fit, at least either said insert or said inner holder is subjected to stress in excess of its yield point and plastically deformed.

Therefore, according to embodiments of the invention, the inner holder is press-fitted into the hole of the stamper to thereby hold the stamper, and eliminating the need to form a holding portion at the outer circumferential edge of the front end of the inner holder. Accordingly, an associated groove is not formed on the disc substrate. Thus, a print region on the disc substrate can be increased in area.

As will be discussed below, Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claims, and therefore fails to provide the advantages and features discussed above.

Suzuki discloses producing a laminated substrate by bonding the disk substrates. A fixed side mirror block 18 and a stamper 32 are provided. The stamper 32 forms information surfaces which face each other when the disk substrates are bonded. A fixed side cutter for forming a cut hole 41 by the first and second tip faces S14, S15, a movable side mirror block 37, and a movable side cutter which applies boring processing to the original mold of the disk substrate are also provided. The first tip face S14 is set at a forward position separated by a prescribed distance H from the surface S3 of the stamper 32 and forms steps on the surfaces of the disk substrates along with molding. The tips of the cut burrs formed in the inner circumferential fringes of the holes of the disk substrates are not protruded from the information surfaces of the disk substrates.

Applicants respectfully submit that Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the present claims. For example, Suzuki does not disclose or suggest “during

said press fit, at least either said stamper or said inner holder is subjected to stress in excess of its yield point and plastically deformed,” as recited in claim 1. Similarly, Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest “during press fit, at least either said insert or said inner holder is subjected to stress in excess of its yield point and plastically deformed,” as recited in claim 10.

According to prior art solutions, as discussed in the present specification on page 6, lines 2-10 and as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, in order to prevent a stamper 29 from separating from a mirror-surface disc 16 and dropping off when a disc substrate is released from the stamper 29 in the course of mold opening, an inner holder 30 is attached to the mirror-surface disc so as to hold the inner circumferential edge of the stamper 29. An annular holding portion 58 is formed at the outer circumferential edge of the front end of the inner holder 30 in such a manner as to project frontward (leftward in Fig. 2) and radially outward. The hold portion 58 presses the inner circumferential edge of the stamper 29 against the mirror-surface disc 16. (Specification, page 6, lines 2-10, Figs. 1 and 2). Suzuki, as will be discussed in more detail below, corresponds to the conventional prior art solutions outlined in the specification.

The present invention, on the other hand, eliminates the need to form a holding portion at the outer circumferential edge of the front end of the inner holder. According to embodiments of the present invention, as described in the specification on page 15, lines 8-18 and illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4, in order to prevent the stamper 29 from separating from the mirror-surface disc 16 and dropping off when a disc substrate is

released from the stamper 29 in the course of mold opening, an inner holder 60 is attached to the mirror-surface disc 16 so as to hold the inner circumferential edge of the stamper 29. For this purpose, the inner holder 60 is press-fitted into a hole of the stamper 29, thereby pressing the stamper 29 against the mirror-surface disc 16. Therefore, the present invention eliminates the need to form the holding portion 58, as required in the conventional art, at the outer circumferential edge of the front end surface of the inner holder 60.

Suzuki, as mentioned above, corresponds to the prior art configurations which require a holding portion. More specifically, according to Suzuki, an inner holder 33 presses the inner circumferential edge of a stamper 32 against a fixed side mirror block 18. For this purpose, as shown in Fig. 1 of Suzuki, a detaching portion 34 is formed at the outer circumferential edge of the inner holder 33 in such a manner as to project frontward and radially outward. The detaching portion 34 of Suzuki corresponds to the holding portion 58 described above with respect to the conventional art. Therefore, the technical features described in Suzuki correspond to those of the prior art illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of the present application.

The Office Action appears to have taken the position that Suzuki teaches the internal circumferential edges of the stamper 32 is forced on the fixed side mirror block by the detaching portion 34 and, therefore, inherently suggests that during the press fit the inner holder is subjected to stress in excess of its yield point and plastically deformed. Suzuki discloses that in order to prevent the stamper 32 from separating from the fixed

side mirror block 18 and dropping off when a disc substrate is released from the stamper 32 in the course of mold opening, the detaching portion 34 presses the inner circumferential edge of the stamper 32 against the fixed side mirror block 18.

In other words, Suzuki asserts that, if the detaching portion 34 is not formed at the outer circumferential edge of the inner holder 33, then the stamper 32 is separated from the fixed side mirror block 18 and is dropped off. In contrast, the present invention resolves the problem which occurs with use of the detaching portion 34, and can prevent the stamper 32 from separating from the fixed side mirror block 18 and dropping off without using the detaching portion 34.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Suzuki does not disclose or suggest “during said press fit, at least either said stamper or said inner holder is subjected to stress in excess of its yield point and plastically deformed,” as recited in claim 1. Similarly, Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest “during press fit, at least either said insert or said inner holder is subjected to stress in excess of its yield point and plastically deformed,” as recited in claim 10.

Claims 2-9, 11, and 15 are dependent upon claims 1 and 10, respectively. Accordingly, claims 2-9, 11, and 15 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claims 1 and 10, and for the specific limitations recited therein.


Applicants respectfully submit that Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. These distinctions are more than sufficient to render

the claimed invention unanticipated and unobvious. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-11 and 15 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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